

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A fastener, comprising:

a metal shank having an approximately constant diameter;
a helical thread formed on the shank, wherein the ratio of the thread to diameter to the shank diameter is at least 1.5:1; and

a helical, roughened ~~uneven~~ surface formed on at least part of the shank.
2. (currently amended) The ~~drywall~~ fastener of claim 1, wherein the helical thread is spaced at intervals between 0.5-1.0 cm.
3. (currently amended) A fastener, comprising:

a head;
a shank having a minor diameter and a tip;
a first helical threading formed on the shank and having a first diameter; and
a second helical threading formed on the shank proximal the head and distal the tip, the second threading having a second diameter that is substantially less than the first diameter; and

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a helical, roughened surface formed on at least part of the shank.
4. (currently amended) The fastener of claim 3, the shank having an axis and length extending from the head to a terminal end thereof, wherein the second helical threading extends over less than half of the shank length.
5. (currently amended) The fastener of claim 3, wherein the ratio of the first diameter to the minor diameter is at least 1.5:1 and the threads of the first threading are spaced at intervals between 0.5 to 1.0 cm.

6. (currently amended) The fastener of claim 5, further comprising the a-helical, roughened uneven-surface extending over ~~at least a portion of the entire~~ shank.

7. (withdrawn) A method of forming a metal fastener, comprising the steps of:
providing a metal shank having a head at a first end;
forming a helical thread and an uneven surface between successive convolutions of the thread by rolling, wherein the ratio of the thread diameter to the shank diameter is at least 1.5:1 and the pitch is between 0.5 and 1.0 cm.

8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein the forming step further includes forming, on the shank, a second thread proximate the head.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the first thread and second thread have respective first and second diameters, wherein the first thread diameter is substantially greater than the second thread diameter.

10. (currently amended) A method for supporting a structure from frangible material using a fastener, comprising the steps of:

providing a self-tapping metal fastener including a head and shank, the shank having a minor diameter and a major diameter, the major diameter defined by a helical threading formed on the shank, wherein the ratio of the major diameter to the minor diameter is at least 1.5:1, and a helical, roughened surface formed on at least part of the shank;

driving the fastener into the frangible material such that the fastener and the structure are ~~is-supported entirely by the frangible material and wherein the frangible material is each of sheet rock and masonry material.~~

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the frangible material is selected from the group consisting ~~driving step includes driving the fastener into each of sheet rock, concrete, brick or and block material.~~

12. (new) A fastener suitable for holding in frangible material comprising:
- a metal shank;
- a first helical thread formed on the shank and defining thread convolutions, and
- a helical, roughened surface disposed between the thread convolutions on at least part of the shank.
13. (new) The fastener of claim 12, further comprising a head at one end of the shank and a pointed tip at a second end of the shank distal the head.
14. (new) The fastener of claim 13, wherein the head includes grooves adapted to engage a Phillips-head screwdriver.
15. (new) The fastener of claim 12, further comprising a second helical thread formed on at least part of the shank and having a height less than the first helical thread.